

Other characters: Lateral margins of pronotum pale levigate, convexium piceous with ochraceous spots, membrane piceous, sternum punctate.

Locality: Agricultural college, Poona, 8-ii-62. S. N. Chaubey, 12 exs.

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K. RAMACHANDRA RAO

30. A PREDACIOUS PENTATOMID BUG, *CANTHECONIDEA FURCELLATA* (WOLFF) ATTACKING *LATOIA LEPIDA* (CRAMER) ON MANGO NEAR BANGALORE

(With three plates)

Our indigenous insect predators of crop pests have not received as much attention as have the parasites and very little information is available on them (Narayanan *et al.* 1967). Except for the more important predatory groups like the Coccinellidae for example, which have been fairly well studied, other equally useful groups—among whom may be mentioned the Mantodea, Reduviidae, Pentatomidae (Asopinae), Neuroptera, Carabidae, Asilidae, Syrphidae (Syrphinae), Chamaemyiidae and particularly the very abundant Spiders (Arachnida: Araneae)—have been overlooked in India.

During the course of my field surveys connected with studies on the Coccinellidae and Syrphidae, I came across a serious infestation of the slug caterpillar *Latoia* (= *Parasa*) *lepida* (Cramer) [Lepidoptera: Limacodidae] on some mango trees on a farm near Bangalore. On closer observation, several groups of the nymphs of *Cantheconidea*¹ *furcellata* (Wolff) [Hemiptera: Pentatomidae: Asopinae] were noticed on the cocoon-covered trunks (see plate I). The red and black coloured nymphs in all stages of development and the brownish adult bugs were observed attacking all instars of the host larvae including recently pupated ones.

The bug approached its prey stealthily, with rostrum extended, the

¹ The generic name is sometimes misspelled *Cantheconidia* by authors.



Mango tree trunk covered by cocoons of *Latoia lepida* (Cramer).
(Photo: Author)



Caterpillar of *Latoia lepida* (Cramer) being attacked by adult (left) and nymph (right) of *Cantheconidea furcellata* (Wolff).
(Photo: Author)